



CALPEEK

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S.F. MAYOR ELECTION: SOME NEW SURVEY DATA.

With the S.F. mayor's election less than 9 months away, current San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos is not only trying to boost his sagging image, but also that of his city - which in some quarters is called "Baghdad by the Bay." It got that nickname when county supes adopted a resolution Jan. 14 giving sanctuary to conscientious-objectors before the Gulf War began. The resolution, which Agnos supported, has given the city a black eye and could cost merchants as much as \$30 million in lost convention business. Not too good...

...So given this background, it is not too surprising that in a new poll Agnos shows up at ONLY 29%. Generally speaking, incumbents who register under 50% are considered VULNERABLE. As for the poll, it's somewhat controversial. It was paid for by PG&E and was done by S.F.-based Solem & Associates. PG&E sources say they survey on a regular basis, but don't release the findings. But somehow this data made its way to the S.F. Examiner (and then later the Chronicle)...

...With Agnos's archenemy, State Sen. Quentin Kopp (I-S.F.), no longer in the November 1991 mayor's race, the field of challengers is down to former S.F. Police Chief Frank Jordan and S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Hsieh. Both are considered moderate to conservative. And there's a good chance S.F. Co. Assessor Richard Hongisto may jump in sometime soon. He's being urged to run by anti-Agnos liberals...

..Back to the poll. Jordan shows up with 19%, Hongisto with 8%, Hsieh with 4% and 41% are undecided. Some CALPEEK sources who claim to have seen the cross tabulation on this poll, say that Jordon is dead even with Agnos among HIGH PROPENSITY VOTERS. More next week...

POLICE BRUTALITY CASE HAS POLITICAL IMPACT.

Editor's note: The brutal police beating of Rodney King by 3 L.A.P.D. officers (while others stood around and watched as "street justice" was handed out), has not only shocked L.A., but the entire State of Calif. Here is CALPEEK's analysis on the political impact of this incident...

- SACRAMENTO - A good place to start because various LAW ENFORCEMENT organizations who lobby for bills on behalf of chiefs of police, county sheriffs, rank & file street cops/deputies and county DAs believe there will be some political fallout in the form of NEW legislation. Here's a sample...

...Keep watch on SB 998 by Sen. Herschel Rosenthal (D-L.A.), which REQUIRES cities & counties to set up citizen review boards to monitor police activity. Many elements in this bill have yet to be resolved. Rosenthal actually introduced SB 998 BEFORE the beating incident. Another bill to watch is SB 1075, reintroduced Mar. 8 by Senate President David Roberti (D-L.A.). This bill says police shall NOT use more force than is REASONABLE when making an arrest. It also requires police agencies to have written policies regarding use of EXCESSIVE FORCE. And finally, State Sen. Diane Watson (D-L.A.) has introduced SB 513, requiring police to intervene when they witness brutality by other officers and to report such violations to superiors...

- STRANGELY SILENT ~ New CA Gov. Pete Wilson (R), who ran with almost solid backing from various law enforcement groups; and new CA Atty. General Dan Lungren (R), another law & order conservative...

- GATES ON THE SPOT - The buck stops at L.A.P.D. Chief Daryl Gates' office. And in-

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deed Gates is now catching the brunt of the criticism for the King incident. One CALPEEK source, who has met with the chief in recent days, says the chief's face is grim, but he's holding up okay and is shouldering the blame. Most sources think Gates will survive this time, even though there are mounting calls of "Gates must go" from the ACLU and from many Black candidates who are now using the King beating in their city council campaigns. The city primary is Apr. 9. Politically it's smart because according to an L.A. Times poll, 44% of all Blacks surveyed think incidents of police brutality involving the L.A.P.D. are VERY COMMON. Another 36% of Blacks polled said brutality was fairly common...

- ACLU ON WARPATH - The So. Calif. ACLU chapter makes no bones about its goal: to get rid of Gates. The ACLU says Gates has failed to set a tone of "humane and professional conduct" for his officers. They bought a full page ad in the L.A. Times (3/12) with the headline: "Who Do You Call When The Gang Wears Blue Uniforms." Very heavy stuff that hurts ALL law enforcement agencies and not just the L.A.P.D...

- MAYOR COOL UNDER FIRE - As for Mayor Tom Bradley, he's been very cool under pressure, but is being very careful. Why? Because he is the guy who appointed members to the L.A. Police Commission. Should the commission also be held partially responsible? And with two vacancies on the commission now, what sort of individuals will the mayor appoint? ACLU types or neutral commissioners? Lots of people will be watching this very closely...

- CHARTER REVISION - Mayor Bradley now says he's ready to launch yet another attempt (the 4th try) to revise the city charter to give the mayor and city council more authority in the hiring and firing of department chiefs. Under the current charter, it is very difficult to get rid of city department heads. However, it's not known whether the council can act quickly enough to put this measure on the June 4 ballot. If this were on the ballot, the timing might favor Bradley and the council because Gates is now politically weakened. He led the opposition in previous charter fights...

- THE COMEBACK OF IRA REINER - Chief Gates has asked DA Ira Reiner to file crim-

inal charges against the 3 officers directly involved. Assault with a deadly weapon, with enhancements for excessive force under color of authority, could result in a 15-20 year sentence. But Reiner, who has been almost invisible since his AG defeat in the June 1990 Demo primary, could use this case to recapture some lost prestige. He needs a BIG win with a high profile case, thus he may not stop with just the 3 officers. He may urge the grand jury to go after some of the other officers, especially if they falsified their reports. The grand jury could report back at any time...

- 911 BOND MEASURE - Of a more immediate concern in L.A. is the fate of Prop. 1, the \$235 million bond measure to upgrade the 911 emergency communications system, set for a vote Apr. 9. It needs a 2/3rds vote for approval and the huge amount of negative publicity about the police has backers very nervous. Gates, Bradley and some 20 corporate CEOs were set to hold a kickoff news conference about 10 days ago, but instead issued a news release. Smart move by Marathon Communications, who are running the YES on 1 campaign. In terms of strategy, some CALPEEK sources believe the campaign will refocus on firemen & paramedics, while keeping the police in a low profile stance. Stay tuned...

RUNNING FOR GLORIA MOLINA'S COUNCIL SEAT.

Now that Gloria Molina is the fifth member on the L.A. County Board of Supes, the campaigning has officially gotten underway to see who replaces her in L.A. City's 1st Council District. The district takes in such communities as Echo Park, Highland Park, Mt. Washington and the Pico-Union area. CALPEEK has already mentioned the name of businessman/community activist Mike Hernandez. In addition, these names have surfaced as possible candidates: Chuck Fuentes, a top aide to L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn (Fuentes is also 2nd Vice Chair of the Calif. Demo Party); Sandra Figueroa, who is exec. director of El Centro Del Pueblo; Vivian Bonzo, president of the Olvera Street Merchants; and Leticia Quezada, a member of the L.A. School Board (Quezada is up for reelection this April). FYI: In the RUMOR department, a CALPEEK source says State Sen. Art Torres has made a few inquiring phone calls about the 1st Council District. Stay tuned...

1992 U.S. HOUSE RACES: A CALPEEK FORECAST.

Editor's note: It's already apparent that a number of House members will not seek reelection next year. In addition, there may be some House members who face tough reelection battles. Here's a brief rundown...

RETIREMENTS

- 3rd C.D. - Now held by U.S. Rep. Bob Matsui(D-Sacramento), who has announced for the U.S. Senate next year. Potential candidates include: Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly (D-Sacto)...

- 6th C.D. - Now held by U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer(D-Greenbrae), who has announced for the U.S. Senate next year. Potential candidates include: S.F. City Atty. Louise Renne(D), Assemblyman John Burton(D), S.F. Sup. Angela Alioto(D), S.F. school board member Jo Anne Miller(D), Marin Councilman Dick Spotswood(D) and CA Medical Assn. PAC director Al Pross...

- 27th C.D. - Now held by U.S. Rep. Mel Levine(D-West L.A.), who is expected to announce shortly that he will run for the U.S. Senate next year. Potential candidates include: Assemblymembers Tom Hayden (D-Santa Monica), Burt Margolin(D-L.A.) and Terry Friedman(D-L.A.), and L.A. Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky(D). CALPEEK sources think it's likely that a big chunk of the 27th might be merged with U.S. Rep. Tony Beilenson's 23rd C.D., meaning that Beilenson may face serious rivals in a Demo primary...

- 39th C.D. - Now held by U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer(R-Fullerton), who has announced for the U.S. Senate next year. Potential candidates include: State Sen. Ed Royce(R-Fullerton)...

TOUGH REELECTIONS

- 7th C.D. - This is the Contra Costa Co. district of U.S. Rep. George Miller(D), who is now chairing the House Interior Committee. CALPEEK sources say Contra Costa Co. Sheriff Richard K. Rainey(R) will challenge Miller next year...

- 9th C.D. - This is the Alameda Co. district of U.S. Rep. Pete Stark(D-Hayward). CALPEEK sources say State Sen. Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) is being urged to challenge

Stark next year. CALPEEK readers may remember the anti-Black remarks made by Stark about Health & Human Services Sec. Louis Sullivan. Add another insult to the list. During the Persian Gulf War debate in the House, Stark described some Jewish House colleagues as "hostile, militant guys" and referred to U.S. Rep. Stephen Solarz(D-NY), who led the Demo fight FOR the war resolution, as "Field Marshal Solarz." Those remarks were considered anti-Semitic. Stark has apologized. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET - 1991: NEW GUN BILLS.

Editor's note: Here's an update on some new GUN BILLS that have been introduced in the CA Legislature...

...The L.A. Times (3/12/91) gave great coverage to Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly's AB 2029 --- a bill which hopefully will reduce the number of accidental deaths caused by children playing with guns. The bill even has the support of the NRA. However, CALPEEK sources believe that Connelly's bill may already be covered by certain child endangerment statutes. A bill with more teeth (and one that the NRA does NOT support) is Assemblyman Rusty Areias' AB 618, which calls for mandatory handgun safety training. Connelly has signed onto Areias' bill as a co-sponsor...

...Another bill you should watch is SB 1235 by State Sen. Newton Russell(R-Glendale). This bill says that beginning in July 1992, all licensed retail firearms dealers shall provide (at no more than cost) a basic firearms safety brochure to buyers of firearms. The way the bill is written, only groups like the NRA, CA Rifle & Pistol Assn. or Gun Owners of CA could produce this brochure --- which might make some law enforcement groups unhappy...

...Another gun bill to watch is SB 1084 by Senate Pres. David Roberti. If approved, this bill basically requires NEW CA residents to register their handguns with the CA Dept. of Justice. The reason for the bill is federal non-enforcement of provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968. Oddly enough, a bill very similar to this was approved by the State Assembly in 1967. The author was Craig Biddle. Then State Sen. George Deukmejian was a co-author, and guess who voted YES??? Ex-Assemblyman Pete Wilson...

WATER WARS - III: CALIFORNIANS FOR WATER.

The newest group jumping into the public dialogue on the topic of WATER is called Californians For Water. The group's corporate papers were filed last December and the first public meeting was held Feb. 13. Judging from the initial news release distributed by CFW, it appears to CALPEEK that this group may eventually be transformed into a POLITICAL ACTION coalition. But for now it's only talk --- or discussions about the long term solutions to the State's age old problem of NOT ENOUGH WATER...

...The group's president is Robert Monagan, former GOP Assembly Speaker and now associated with the CA Economic Development Council. Executive Director is David Ackerman, head of his own PA/legislative advocacy firm, DGA Associates (916)444-9601...

...Other members of CFW's Bd. of Directors include Thomas Aldrich, VP of Anheuser-Busch Cos.; James Harvey, chair/ceo of Transamerica Corp.; Michael D. Madigan, chair of San Diego Co. Water Authority; Gerald H. Meral, exec. director of the Planning & Conservation League; David Moore, president of Western Growers Assn.; Ray Remy, president L.A. Chamber of Commerce; Bob Vice, president CA Farm Bureau Federation; Kirk West, president of the Calif. C of C; and Phillip Williams, vice chair of Times Mirror Corp...

...Back to politics. CFW will tap into these and other groups for some seed money to finance a poll to determine public attitudes on water issues. From there CFW will formulate a plan of action, and then take either the legislative or initiative route. Stay tuned...

MWD's BORONKAY DISCUSSES CA's WATER CRISIS.

Carl Boronkay, general mgr. of So. Calif.'s big water agency, the Metropolitan Water District, will speak to a joint meeting of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn. and Women In Public Affairs, Mar. 18 at the Tower Restaurant (Sunset Room), 1150 S. Olive St., L.A. Boronkay's 12 noon lunch speech is titled, "What's Ahead: So. CA's Current Water Crisis." For info and RSVPs, Yolanda Ochoa (818)302-1990 or Frances Williams (213)483-1581 ext. 222...

CALIF. REPUBLICANS FOR CHOICE FORM PAC.

It's called CRC-PAC - Calif. Republicans for Choice-PAC. Registration papers were filed in January and CRC-PAC has already endorsed and given money to two GOP candidates in the Mar. 19 special elections: El Dorado Co. Sup. Bob Dorr(R), who is running in the 1st S.D. special in northern Calif., and attorney Dana Reed(R), who is running in the 35th S.D. special in Orange County. Each were given \$1,000. Both are PRO-CHOICE Republicans. CRC-PAC consultant is Eileen Padberg of Orange Co. and the group's treasurer is Daralyn E. Reed. For info about the CRC-PAC, contact Padberg at (714)756-8477, Patti Archuletta (213)546-6716 or Nan Bostick at (415)341-9229. Stay tuned...

KENNEDY PICKED AS CDP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Susan P. Kennedy has been named executive director of the Calif. Democratic Party. The appointment was made by new CDP chair Phil Angelides, who also named Kathy Lynch as transition director. Kennedy has been exec. director of the CA Abortion Rights Action League-No. Calif. Angelides also announced he would move the CDP's HQ to Sacto. No new address or phone yet...

CA BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE: 2 NEW MEASURES.

The CA Secretary of State's office has given the green light to sponsors of 2 measures to begin collecting signatures...

- "JURIES" is a constitutional amendment sponsored by Judy Osburn of Maricopa (805) 835-2062. The measure would require that whenever State or local government is one of the parties in any trial by jury, the court must inform the jury that in addition to their responsibility to judge the facts, the jurors also have a right to judge the law itself. Osburn has until July 22 to collect 615,957 signatures...

- "MARIJUANA" is an initiative statute sponsored by 17 different individuals. This measure would prohibit prosecution for cultivation, transportation, distribution or consumption of marijuana for industrial, medicinal, nutritional and personal use. Sponsors have until July 22 to collect 384,973 signatures...